US Foreign office at Hyderabad

2395. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Embassy has written to the Ministry in 1996 for permission to open US foreign office and commercial services office at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the proposal; and

(d) by when the permission is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) There was a proposal to open a United States Foreign Commercial Service office at Hyderabad in 1996.

(b) to (d) After obtaining the concurrence of concerned departments the Government of India cleared the proposal in March 2000. The United States has, since then, opened a commercial services office at Hyderabad.

Indo-Bangladesh dialogue

†2396. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had held any dialogue with the representatives of Bangladesh regarding ongoing anti-India activities by terrorists in Bangladesh during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the occasions since 1999 when such dialogues were held; and

(c) the details of the evidences furnished by India regarding terrorist activities on each occasion alongwith the reaction of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The details of the meetings are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Intelligence and documentary evidence have been shared with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has responded that the information was verified and not corroborated. The Government of Bangladesh has repeatedly assured the Government that activities inimical to India's interests would not be permitted in Bangladesh territory.

Statement

Details of the occasions when Indo-Bangladesh Dialogues were held since 1999 on ongoing anti-India activities by terrorists in Bangladesh during the last few years.

Joint Working Group Meetings:

6th Meeting held in Dhaka-January 24—26, 2000

7th Meeting held in Delhi-February 15—17, 2001

8th Meeting held in Dhaka-January 22-23, 2003

Foreign Secretary-level Talks:

Held in Delhi-13-14 December, 2000 & February 18, 2002

Special Envoy of PM:

Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM's visit to Dhaka-October 26—31, 2001

Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit to India:

Two visits-June 14-15, 2002 & February 13—16, 2003

External Affairs Minister's visit to Bangladesh:

Shri Yashwant Sinha-August 24-25, 2002

Bangladesh Finance Minister's Visit to India:

Mr. Saifur Rahman-December 3-4, 2001

Prime Ministerial Level Meeting:

At the 11th SAARC Summit helf in Kathmandu-January 4—6, 2002

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Prime Minister Vajpayee met on the sidelines of the Summit.

Bi-Annual DG-level BSF-BDR Meetings:

Held in New Delhi: 15—19 March 1999, 10—14 April 2000, 28 March-01 April, 2001; 28 October-2 November 2002.

Held in Dhaka: 24—28 October 1999; 21—26 October 2000; 22—25 March, 2002

Illegal migration of Indians

2397. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of Indians who are migrating to foreign countries illegally has been steadily increasing;

(b) if so, the number during the last three years along with the action taken against them; and

(c) whether Government had taken any action against the agents who have duped innocent persons of their hard earned money and if so, the number of such agents and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The requisite informaton is being collected from all Indian Missions/Posts abroad and other agencies concerned of the Government of India, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-US agreement for higher technology

†2398. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and America have entered into an agreement for mutual cooperation in higher technology;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.